



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOREST ENVIRONMENT
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program 2022 Bulk Purchase Program

After a successful pilot in October through December of 2021, the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) will be shifting from a coupon model to a bulk purchase model in 2022 to maximize the amount of programmatic benefits provided to both eligible RI seniors and local farms on a yearly basis. This new model will be accomplished by partnering with the Office of Healthy Aging to further the reach of the program to additional RI seniors and with Farm Fresh RI to aggregate locally grown produce and deliver it directly to central senior locations throughout RI. To learn about how you can benefit from participation in the new SFMNP bulk purchase model, please view the applicable sections below.

Local Farms:

As part of the shift from a coupon model to a bulk purchase model, the SFMNP and FFRI are dedicated to ensuring that all interested farms have a pathway for selling their produce into the produce boxes regardless of their size and previous participation in the SFMNP. As part of this initiative, we will be reaching out to all farms via email and phone calls that have previously participated in the SFMNP coupon model to provide details on how they can best plan to get their produce into the hands of seniors through these boxes. Additionally, we will be coordinating on outreach of the new bulk purchase model to farmers who have not previously participated through our webpage updates, media outlets, and farmer training invitations. While we are recruiting these farms, we will be making it a priority that the bulk purchase model remains as inclusive and equitable to farmers of all nationalities by distributing visual flyers with informational diagrams and hosting in-person meetings which will be designed to assist in crop planning while overcoming any language barrier. Lastly, we ask that if you would like to participate or know of other farms that could benefit from participating, please share and fill out this survey: [SFMNP Bulk Produce Boxes - Farm Survey \[forms.gle\]](#).

RI Seniors:

A shift towards a bulk purchase produce delivery model is also intended to enhance the efforts of the SFMNP to fight food insecurity by making sure a greater amount of fresh, local produce is directly accessible to additional eligible seniors throughout RI. This is accomplished through our partnership with the Office of Healthy Aging to further identify senior centers, senior meal sites, low-income senior housing locations, and home-bound seniors which can receive a delivery of produce boxes. The list of locations where seniors can sign up to receive a maximum of two free produce boxes throughout the year will be posted on the website starting in March and will be distributed throughout RI via press releases and other local RI locations such as farmers markets. There will also be the option for seniors to utilize a proxy who can sign up and deliver the produce boxes to those that are not able to themselves. These deliveries can continue to occur until all programmatic funds are used to benefit seniors which provides the possibility of seniors receiving produce boxes into December 2022. For senior locations to receive produce boxes for their local senior community, please contact DEM.SFMNP@dem.ri.gov